

teachers, whose contracts are all made for the year. This idea was so monstrous that he should not say another word on it. If this matter was left to the Legislature, the old county system, which had prevailed for thirty years, and which was a dead failure everywhere, might again be restored.

Mr. Maulsby asked where was the proof of its failure?

Mr. Brown said no system could succeed over which there was no supervision. The old county system had been in operation for thirty years, and under it children had been educated and gone out in the world to perform their parts. Were they well educated; were they as well educated as the children of the Northern and Western States? They were not, and why? Because the Northern and Western States have a system of general instruction, while in Maryland and the Southern States the local system had always been in practice. There could be no efficient system which was not general. In reference to the city of Baltimore, the system was a good one, and was much endeared to the people, but it was not a perfect system. If it was, the school commissioners and the members of the city council would not have to go to other cities at the public expense for the purpose of seeing the workings of the systems there. There should be a State officer to have the supervision of the school fund, not only in the city of Baltimore, but throughout the counties.

Mr. McKaig said it was impossible to frame a system here which would be unexceptionable. Either leave this matter to the Legislature, or if they thought they had more wisdom than ten generations that had gone before them, let them make it themselves; but either do one thing or the other. He had, some years ago, reviewed the public school systems of the different States and of Europe, and he had come to the conclusion that public schools were humbugs, but as the people seemed to think there was something in them, therefore he was content to admit that there was something in them. There was no use of a general superintendent; the man with a hard name, which it would take a Dutch tongue and a Yankee accent to pronounce, had never done anything. He had patronized the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad by riding up to Allegany two or three times, but he had done nothing else; he was